

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 305840

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH, UK, PDEV

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: INVITATION TO PATRIOTIC FRONT

1. PARA 4 CONTAINS TEXT OF LETTER FROM DAVID OWEN TO
NKOMO AND MUGABE WHICH WILL BE DELIVERED TO ZAPU AND ZANU
HEADQUARTERS IN LUSAKA AND MAPUTO, RESPECTIVELY, ON FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 23.

2. BRITISH AMBASSADORS/HIGH COMMISSIONERS IN ACTION POSTS
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HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BRIEF HOST GOVERNMENTS ON ISSUANCE
OF INVITATION.

3. WE SEE NO NEED FOR YOU TO TAKE SPECIFIC FOLLOW-UP
ACTION AT THIS POINT, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING DIFFICULTIES
OF CONTACT DURING HOLIDAY PERIOD. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD
BE PREPARED, SHOULD AN OPPORTUNITY ARISE, TO MAKE THE

FOLLOWING POINTS TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT:

A. WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE PROPOSED MEETINGS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS.

B. AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PROJECTED PARTICIPATION IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF HIGH-LEVEL AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO THE SETTLEMENT EFFORT.

C. THE MEETINGS WILL HAVE VALUE IN THEMSELVES ONLY IF SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TRANSITION PERIOD AND THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION ARE UNDERTAKEN IN GOOD FAITH.

D. FURTHERMORE, MEETINGS WILL ALSO SERVE AS PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION THAT ANGLO-AMERICAN SETTLEMENT EFFORT IS VERY MUCH ALIVE AND THAT WE HAVE NOT CEDED INITIATIVE, NOR GRANTED APPROVAL, TO SMITH'S INTERNAL SETTLEMENT GAMBIT.

4. BEGIN TEXT

I AM WRITING IN REPLY TO YOUR JOINT LETTER OF 8 DECEMBER WHICH YOU CONVEYED TO ME THROUGH OUR AMBASSADOR IN MAPUTO.

I HAVE NOT WAVERED, AND SHALL NOT WAVER, IN MY DETERMINATION TO ADHERE TO THE PROPOSALS I PUT TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE US GOVERNMENT IN SEPTEMBER. I BELIEVE THAT THESE PROPOSALS PROVIDE THE SOUNDEST BASIS FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT WHICH IS ESSENTIAL IF ZIMBABWE IS TO HAVE A STABLE AND SETTLED FUTURE.

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TION TO ADHERE TO THE PROPOSALS I PUT TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE US GOVERNMENT IN SEPTEMBER. I BELIEVE THAT THESE PROPOSALS PROVIDE THE SOUNDEST BASIS FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT WHICH IS ESSENTIAL IF ZIMBABWE IS TO HAVE A STABLE AND SETTLED FUTURE.

I WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT, IN THE STATEMENT ISSUED ON 8 DECEMBER FOLLOWING THE MEETING OF THE JOINT EXECUTIVE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, YOU DECLARED YOURSELVES IN FAVOR OF QUOTE DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONSHELD IN THE CONTEXT OF TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH GUARANTEE THE FREEDOM OF PARTICIPATION BY ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN THE COUNTRY UNQUOTE. THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS IN CONDITIONS WHICH GUARANTEE THE FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF ALL IS A CARDINAL PRINCIPLE. YOUR STATEMENT REINFORCES MY BELIEF THAT SERIOUS TALKS BETWEEN US CAN SORT OUT ANY DIFFERENCES OVER THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD AND INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION. YOU WOULD NOT I KNOW, EXPECT US TO AGREE TO PROPOSALS FOR THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD WHICH WOULD BE SEEN BY THE WORLD TO BE UNFAIR TO ANY OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE ELECTION.

I WAS ALSO PLEASED TO NOTE THAT FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING
IN BEIRA ON 18 DECEMBER, AT WHICH YOU WERE PRESENT, THE
FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLE
OF NEGOTIATING WITH US.

I GATHER THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO MEET
BEFORE THE MIDDLE OF JANUARY BECAUSE OF EXISTING TRAVEL
COMMITMENTS. ANDY YOUNG AND I WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH

YOU EITHER IN LONDOR OR, IF YOU WOULD PREFER, THOUGH
THIS IS MORE DIFFICULT FOR US, IN MALTA, ANY TIME AFTER
18 JANUARY. I SUGGEST THAT LORD CARVER AND GENERAL
PREM CHAND SHOULD ALSO BE PRESENT AND I WILL PUT THIS
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TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL.

YOURS SINCERELY, DAVID OWEN. END TEXT VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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